

POLAND MHPSS TWG Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 2 June, 2022

Meeting subject	Poland Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group Weekly Meeting
Time & Location	https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTIhMTIyNjQtMmQzNC00ODc3LTk5ODktZTA5M2ViNDhkMjVh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f610c0b7-bd24-4b39-810b-3dc280afb590%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22d782bb44-7c31-4c80-9b1b-3eb33764ae5f%22%7d 2 June 2022 Thursday 11 am
Chaired by	Anna Goloktionova, Selma Sevкли
Minutes prepared by	UNHCR Poland
Participants (20)	Agnieszka Cwielag (Intersos), Alicja Polanska, Anna Ochmanska (Intersos), Aylin Yaniz (ASAM SGDD), Carla Ortuno Guendell (Together Int), Karolina Fabirkiewicz (UNHCR), Kateryna Burbak (IOM), Lucia Daccarett, Marcio Gagliato (UNICEF), Maya Perlmann (Americares), Mike Baskin (Biodynamic Breath), Murat Yuksel (International Corps Poland), Noemi Skala (Save the Children), Oksana Dmytriak (UNICEF), Olga Volik (PUI), Oliver Storz (OM International), Pablo Perez – Fernandez (IRC), Patricia Landinez (UNICEF), Sibel Kocaoglan (ASAM SGDD), Tomasz Rowinski (EZRA)
Agenda	<p>Agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MHPSS updates 2. MHPSS TWG Workplan discussion 3. Employment of Ukrainian MHPSS professionals in Poland (Tomasz Rowinski) 4. MHPSS Needs in Lublin 5. MHPSS Capacity needs assessment tool 6. Establishing regional/municipal MHPSS Coordination 7. AOB
Introduction & Overview	
Agenda point 1	<p>MHPSS updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Oliver Storz, OM International, eur.idr@om.org (Weronika Czajko, Weronika.Czajko@om.org will join in later meetings) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presence in BCPs in Dorohusk and Zosin, transit centers, inland locations such as Warsaw and Kutno - Planning a PSS program for children aged 6-12 - More updates in the coming weeks 2. Updates from Ganna and Selma:

- MHPSS newsletter will be launched soon
- Last week a high-level children mental health meeting in Warsaw initiated by Telefono Azzurro and World Psychiatric Association took place
- Last Tuesday RRP was launched in Poland – MHPSS TWG Poland Team was present and joined Health, Education, Protection sector discussions
- PAH announced call for proposals for MHPSS activities for children and adolescents
- On Friday (3/06) – training session on RRP reporting on 5W (see ‘useful links’ below)

3. Updates from current members:

- a. Noemi Skala, Save the Children
 - Currently planning summer programming and mobile units but nothing concrete yet – will share details soon
- b. Pablo Perez – Fernandez, IRC
 - Implementation of activities around social and emotional learning of children across 8 shelters
- c. Olga Volik, PUI
 - MHPSS team is operating in the same locations as previously shared
 - No significant dynamics yet but assessments are ongoing

Agenda point 2

MHPSS TWG Workplan discussion:

- Aim to have a longer-term workplan adjusted to the new phase of emergency – focus on integration and support for those who are already in Poland
- Includes 7 main building blocks
- Joined effort – members’ input needed

Q1: Does the workplan include any section on mapping existing resources and referral pathways?

A1: Right now, we have a rapid MHPSS mapping consolidated from Health and Protection. The work on Mapping is on-going.

Q2: For now, can our organizations use the referral pathways document prepared by CP TWG?

A2: MHPSS is a cross-cutting topic which intersects with child protection, hence some referral pathways can be shared. We also advise to organizations to fill in UNHCR kobo link tool if a protection partner or WHO’s partner tool if a health partner

Agenda point 3

Employment of Ukrainian MHPSS professionals in Poland (Tomasz Rowinski):

- Tomasz Rowinski is a mental health expert, working closely with the government of Poland, member of Poland Medical Advisory Board
- Document with formal criteria required to obtain a job in MHPSS sector in Poland as a Ukrainian is available [here](#)
- There are differences in employment requirements between Poland and Ukraine, hence some problems with accepting Ukrainian qualifications in Poland can exist.

	<p>Q1: Is it true that Ukrainians are hesitant to speak with translators and prefer to work directly with Ukrainian-speaking psychologists?</p> <p>A1 (Olga, PUI): From our experience in Blue Dots, it is true. When being provided MHPSS counselling, it is preferred that there is no translator, most likely to ensure more confidentiality. However, when speaking with protection staff/social workers, Ukrainians prefer to talk to a Polish, rather than a Ukrainian person. This is most likely because they assume that Poles know Polish realities/existing services more.</p>
<p>Agenda point 4</p>	<p>MHPSS Needs in Lublin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are in contact with the Deputy Mayor of Lublin who will join the next meeting - Only 2000 of 50000 refugees in Lublin are in reach of MHPSS services – how to increase access?
<p>Agenda point 5</p>	<p>MHPSS Capacity needs assessment tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey available in Ukr and Pol, to disseminate among Ukrainian and Polish MHPSS providers - The goal is to reach out to the largest possible number of employees and volunteers, and to understand their needs to improve capacity in MHPSS.
<p>Agenda point 6</p>	<p>Establishing regional/municipal MHPSS Coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiate the process of voivodeship level MHPSS coordination groups which will work on more practical information for service providers in the area - If any member would like to facilitate local level MHPSS coordination (under TWG umbrella) , please, contact MHPSS TWG Co-leads.
<p>Useful links</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR Data Portal [click here] - Poland MHPSS TWG Google drive [click here] - Upcoming training session on Regional response plan reporting on 5W (ActivityInfo) on the following link. The session will be technical with hands-on practice. For more information please check the one pager document in English or Polish. - Responselearninghub.org – inter-agency capacity building task force website with upcoming trainings - NEW MHPSS IASC RESOURCES RELEASED: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. IASC MHPSS Guidelines (Polish) b. Advocacy Package (Polish) c. Assessment Guide (Polish)